

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ITU--CCITT REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA

REF: STATE 41386

1. SUMMARY: LATIN AMERICA PLAN COMMITTEE MET APRIL 10-15, AND WHILE IT COMPLETED ITS ASSIGNED TASKS WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, IT DID SO AMID SPECULATION THAT CITEL (REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE ORGANIZED UNDER OAS AUSPICES) MAY BE MORE SUITABLE FORUM TO DISCUSS FACILITIES, SERVICES AND TARIFFS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE IN VIEW OF ITS LESS RESTRICTIVE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ITS MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. PLAN COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA MET IN LIMA, PERU FROM APRIL 10-15. COMMITTEE IS A JOINT STUDY GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCITT) AND THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCIR), PERMANENT ORGANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU). ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IS TO CONSIDER INTRA-REGIONAL TRAFFIC FORECASTS, ROUTING, ARTERIES AND NUMBERING PLANS TO ASSIST MEMBERS TO ORGANIZE AND IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

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3. THE MEETING WAS REASONABLY WELL ATTENDED, WITH 20 COUNTRIES OF THE REGION PARTICIPATING. MR. C. SEVERINI (ARGENTINA), VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, PRESIDED, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN, MR. C NUNEZ (MEXICO). US IS A MEMBER OF REGION BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

4. A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME WAS DEVOTED TO COUNTRY BY COUNTRY REPORTS ON COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION SINCE THE COMMITTEE'S LAST MEETING IN 1973. MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED THE PLAN GUIDE AND QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMAT FOR REPORTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATISTICS NECESSARY FOR CONSOLIDATING FORECASTS, ROUTING AND ARTERIES INFORMATION. IN CERTAIN CASES MEMBERS MET OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS TO WORK OUT BILATERAL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

5. A REGIONAL TARIFF GROUP, WHICH IS A WORKING PARTY OF CCITT STUDY GROUP III, MET DURING THE COURSE OF THE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING. IT CONSIDERED, WITHOUT ARRIVING AT ANY CONCLUSIONS, METHODS FOR CALCULATING COSTS OF SERVICE.

6. WHILE PLAN COMMITTEE DEALT SATISFACTORILY WITH ALL ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA, UNDERLYING CONCERN OF SEVERAL OF MORE INFLUENTIAL DELEGATES (BRAZIL, MEXICO, ARGENTINA) AND MEMBERS OF CCITT AND ITU SECRETARIATS WAS WHETHER COMMITTEE WAS CONTINUING TO PERFORM USEFUL FUNCTION. WHILE MEMBERS GENUINELY WANT OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES WITHIN THE REGION, AND TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC FORECASTS WHICH ARE DONE BIENNIALY THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE, COMMITTEE MEETS ONLY ONCE EVERY FOUR

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TO FIVE YEARS. MEMBERS ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS RELATED TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC FACILITIES, BUT ISSUES OF THIS SORT ARE OUTSIDE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. THUS, THERE IS FAIRLY STRONG BELIEF THAT CITEL (REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE CONVENED UNDER OAS AUSPICES) MAY BE MORE SUITABLE FORUM FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE INASMUCH AS IT WILL PROBABLY MEET FAIRLY FREQUENTLY, AND IT MAY EXAMINE FACILITIES AND TARIFF QUESTIONS. WHILE CITING DEFICIENCIES OF PLAN COMMITTEE AND CONCOMITANT ADVANTAGES OF CITEL, PALN MEMBERS, POSSIBLY OUT OF DESIRE TO MAINTAIN ALL EXISTING TIES WITH ITU AND CCITT, EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO FOREGO PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND COMMITTEE'S DEMISE AT NEXT ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE IS THUS UNLIKELY.

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